

Program and Jam

Jam Buddies -- If you are looking for someone to play with look for someone with a "Jam Buddy" badge or Lanyard. They will be happy to play with you. Can't promise they will know every song you want to play but they will surely sit with you and play something.

If you want someone to play with you at the open mic just ask them. If a crowded stage or jam is not something you are looking for a Jam Buddy can help you find a quiet place to play. They are ready to be your Jam Buddy !

“Slow Jam”

The slow jam can also be called a turtle jam or a chestnut jam. Several names for the same type of jam. Its Slow. No fear of complicated fast songs. The tempo (speed) will not exceed 90 beats per minute (bpm) nor will there be more than 4 chords in a song. Hopefully most songs will have only three basic chords, sometimes the relative minor for the Key. The slow jam is not genre specific. We expect folk, gospel, country, bluegrass and anything else the group wants to try as long as it fits in the description of the Slow Jam. There will be copies of songbooks available to choose songs from.

Bring a instrument, a capo (except basses) and your singing voice. We will be singing. Basic jam instruction will interspersed throughout the slow jam. Song selection will rotate around the slow jam circle. Bring some of your favorite songs to share.

The Slow jam will be moderated to keep the songs going. The slow jam will be open to all at all times except for designated meal times. PS - if you have a favorite chair bring it. Chairs with arms are a challenge to some players.

“Playing banjo for beginners as easy as rolling off a log !”

If you never tried to play the banjo or you are just starting out here is the workshop for you. We will talk about the basics ; tuning simple chords and some right hand styles to get off on the right foot.

“Estill Bingham’s Twisty Kentucky Fiddle Tunes”

With a fountain of beard and a tidal wave of tunes, Estill Bingham of Bell County Kentucky was a colorful character and a remarkable musician. Intermediate-level fiddlers will be treated to a session devoted to learning several of his intriguing tunes which will be intertwined with stories that connect the music to a life lived under the shadow of Pine Mountain.

“A Bluegrass Breakdown: Essential Form, Technique, and Skills”

This workshop explains and demonstrates the basic patterns and form characteristic of traditional bluegrass, including instrumentals and vocals. The goal is to provide the participant knowledge and skills of basic-to-intermediate skill level bluegrass form and technique, including examples of basic, traditional bluegrass material, song forms, tempo, playing leads vs. playing “back-up”, improvisation, vocal harmony (how instruments and vocals work together) and, finally blending it all together in a song(s).

The session will be presented in a standard bluegrass jam format with explanations, demonstrations and practice of skills discussed and, finally, jammed as a group. Unless you plan to observe the class only, please bring your own instrument. Standard bluegrass instruments typically include guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, resonator guitar, and bass.

“Sacred Harp Singing”

We will engage in musical and social harmony through the recreation of a rural 19th-century singing school. Singing from the *Sacred Harp* tune book, which features intoxicating harmony written in a unique four-shape notation of triangles, squares, circles, and diamonds makes learning to read music easy and enjoyable. The class will also weave in background historical and social context. The class will accommodate both total beginners and veteran singers. Books will be available to borrow.

“Technology Seminar on Live Streaming, Animated Videos, and How to Make Videos of Your Gathering”

This workshop will provide ways to incorporate technology into your SongFarmer Chapter meetings in order to increase your visibility and presence on social media. This is a great way to share your Chapter’s

musical activity with others across the world-wide front porch. We will cover the basics of Sony Movie Studio software (an inexpensive download necessary to create animations). We will learn how to create background scenes, and how to access animated photos to insert into the foreground. We will also discover how to use layering and how to make animations move across the screen using “track motion.” Once you have your completed video we will become familiar with the process to render the video in a resolution appropriate for uploading to apps, including Facebook or Youtube.

“A Brief Look at Fingerstyle Guitar”

This workshop will explain and demonstrate the history, development, and basic patterns associated with several styles/genres of fingerstyle guitar. It will provide participants with the opportunity to learn and practice specific songs and techniques, including blues, country, “Travis” style picking, and others.

Intended for intermediate level players, participants will gain knowledge and skills in guitar forms and techniques associated with fingerstyle guitar, and gain a basic understanding of the performance of these genres. This is a “hands-on” workshop featuring demonstration, participation, and group interaction for observing, learning and practicing the various techniques. Unless you plan to observe the class only, please bring your own instrument.

Biographical Statements

Perry and Diana Brake are multi-instrumentalists and music instructors from Tellico Plains, Tennessee. They have been actively hosting and attending local Jam sessions weekly for the last twenty years in North Central Florida and Southeast Tennessee. Perry and Diana

began the Tellico Plains chapter of SongFarmers in the early Spring of 2016. Perry is a Certified Pete Wernick Bluegrass Jam Instructor and is also the Director of the Tellico Plains Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM) Chapter. Diana and Perry also perform as the duo Faith Willin'.

Jim Talbert has been playing bluegrass music for over 30 years, performing regularly as a banjo and guitar player with several bluegrass bands including Borderline Bluegrass and Hickory Hill Gospel Bluegrass. Jim has a BA in Music Education and created the “Join the Jam” program at his hometown public library, helping beginner and intermediate students gain the knowledge and confidence to play with other musicians in a jam. Jim formed the SongFarmers of Cabot, Arkansas Chapter approximately two years ago and works closely with the Library on their music programs.

Cassandra Adams has a BA degree in Psychology from Saint Leo University in Saint Leo Florida. She is the Community Job Development Coordinator for Pathfinder, Inc., a non-profit organization in Jacksonville, AR. Cassandra is the SongFarmer chapter leader in South Bend, Arkansas and was instrumental in forming the “Join the Jam” program at the Cabot Library. Cassandra also writes the SongFarmers Cultivator newsletter for the organization.

For the past 5 years, Cassandra has been the assistant coordinator for the Friends and Family Bluegrass Jam festival in Little Rock. Cassandra studied under Jim Talbert, plays rhythm guitar and is now in the process of learning the U-Bass. Cassandra helped form the SongFarmers of Cabot, Arkansas chapter and also works closely with the library in their music programs on and off site.

Skip Johns is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and history and is a music instructor in guitar, banjo and double bass. During his fifty years in music performance, he has developed expertise in classical guitar, Merle Travis and Chet Atkins finger-style guitar and in the five-string banjo. He is a historian of

American musical instruments and musical genres, has provided presentations for the Florida Humanities Council, for the Florida Department of State, the Florida Governor's Office and is a 45-year veteran of the Florida Folk Festival. Skip has opened concerts for Johnny Cash, Al Hirt, Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, Grandpa Jones, Tony Trischka, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, the Seldom Scene and, at age 26, performed with his band as the guest of country comedian, Jerry Clower, on the stage of the WSM Grand Ole Opry. He was mentored as a teenager by legendary Florida fiddler, Chubby Wise, and performed numerous concerts with him over the years. Skip and his wife, Linda, have formed and host two SongFarmers chapters in Florida, and have supported the formation of four additional chapters in Florida and Georgia.

Linda Dyal Johns is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Social Work degree. She is a retired management and policy analyst with the State of Florida, former instructor at Florida State University and applies her experience in management, public affairs and the use of media and other resources to supporting and promoting the SongFarmers community. She plays the guitar very badly and sings even worse.

Rik Palieri is a talented singer, songwriter, multi instrumentalist, storyteller and member of "The Mythical Order of The Rose Tattoo", who lives the musical life to the fullest.

He is a very energetic performer who captivates audiences of all ages with his stories and songs. In a typical performance Rik will sing an old ballad with a fret less banjo, stomp out a Lead belly style blues on the 12 string guitar, squeeze an exotic instrumental on the Polish bagpipes, spin out a wild and wooly story of his travels, pluck out a tune on the Ozark mouth bow, blow a mournful melody on the Native American flute and end the evening with an original Yodel-sing-a-long

Rik has performed at concert halls, schools and festivals throughout the lower 48 states, toured Alaska by float plane, rode camelback in Australia and sung on trains throughout Europe He has performed, in Canada, France, Spain, Germany Australia, Poland, Mexico and Argentina. He has appeared at such venues as The Kennedy Center, The Country Music

Hall Of Fame, The Philadelphia Folk Festival, The Port Ferry Old Songs Folk Festival, The Hudson River Revival, The Vancouver festival, plus countless TV & radio programs.

Rik is also the host & producer of “The Song Writer’s Notebook “, a TV show, archived in the American Folk Life Center in the new “Rik Palieri Collection”, at The American Folk Life Center Archives in Washington D.C.

Rik has recorded 8 albums; He is also an occasional writer for *Sing Out!*, *Banjo Newsletter* & author of a book *The Road Is My Mistress, Tales Of A Roustabout Songster*.

Over the years Rik has performed and worked with some of the legends of American Folk Music such as; Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, Jimmie Driftwood, U. Utah Phillips, Ramblin' Jack Elliott & many more.

In 2009 Rik was featured on the Grammy nominated *Singing Through The Hard Times*: a tribute to Utah Phillips.

Ron Pen is a performer and scholar of the music of the Appalachian region. A founding member of the Appalachian Association of Sacred Harp Singers, with whom he performed on *A Prairie Home Companion*, Ron is now Professor and Director Emeritus of the John Jacob Niles Center for American Music at the University of Kentucky. He began fiddling forty-five years ago in Rockbridge County, VA and has since participated in various concerts, workshops, and festivals across the region. He has also performed music across the globe with the Red State Ramblers and recently shared shape note singing with Sufi chant in Lancashire, England.

Josh Dunson, a community organizer by trade, ran the roots folk music agency Real People's Music for 40 years. He closed RPM in 2015 after changes in the college market and the music business became largely digitalized. He also wrote as a critic for *Broadside(NY)*, *Sing Out!* and *Chicago Magazine*. Josh chairs the SongFarmers Creative Board.